

Appl. No. 09/942,298
Amdt. Dated 08/11/06
Reply to Office Action of 05/17/06

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 3-5, 12-14, 21-22, 26-27, 30-32 and 35 were rejected as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As a result, independent claims 1, 10, 19, 24, 29 and 34 have been amended to include limitations associated with claims 3, 12, 21, 26, 30 and 35, respectively. Claims 2-3, 11-12, 20-21, 25-26, 30 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent claims 1, 10, 19, 24, 29 and 34 and any claims that depend therefrom.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-11, 15, 18-20, 23-25, 29, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and §103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in their entirety because a *prima facie* case of anticipation and obviousness have not been established. However, based on the amendments set forth above, further discussion of the grounds for traversing the rejections is not warranted.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: August 11, 2006

By


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Susan McFarlane

8/11/2006

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